

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for positioning labels on a graphical display, which, in an illustrative embodiment, can include labels for aircraft icons in an air traffic control system's computer graphics display. The present invention advantageously identifies clusters of overlapping labels and objects, and calculates non-overlapping label positions on a cluster by cluster basis. In another aspect of the present invention, the movement of labels is accomplished in a smooth, incremental fashion so that cognitive distraction to the user of the graphical display terminal is kept to a minimum.